REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. GENERALLY

Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy of an in-person interview conducted on April 30, 2008. Applicant's summary of the interview is filed herewith.

Claims 103-135 are pending the application. Claims 47, 53, 54, 60, 66, 67 and 70-80 were previously canceled. Claims 81-102 are canceled herewith in order to present the claims in a more readable form.

No new matter has been added.

B. CLAIM REJECTIONS

1. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 45-46, 48-52, 55-57, 59, 61-63, 74, 82-84, and 97-99 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2. Claims 46, 48-49, 59, 61-62, 74, 82-84, and 97-99 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1.

The examiner has rejected all of the Markush claims presented by Applicant on the basis that there is not sufficient antecedent basis for the claims or that the claims are not supported by the specification. In particular, the examiner asserts that the recitation of a "group" in claims 46, 48-49, 59, 61-62, 74, 82-84 and 97-99 is new matter because the concept of a "group" is not found in Applicant's original specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Markush claim form used in now canceled claims 46, 48-49, 59, 61-62, 74, 82-84 and 97-99 and in new claims 104, 105, 106, 115, 116, 117, 126, 127 and 128 does not require an explicit disclosure of a grouping of elements in the specification. (See, MPEP §2173.05(h)I; 8th Ed.) Additionally, the Markush form has been used to consolidate limitations into a single claim and not to expand the scope of the claims beyond the disclosure.

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 81, 85-87, 89-90, 92, 94-96, and 100-101 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,324,648 issued to Grantges (hereinafter, "Grantges"). Claims 81, 85-87, 89-90, 92, 94-96, and 100-101 have been canceled.

New independent claim 103 recites the following limitations:

> 103. (New) A system for enabling remote access to applications residing on a processing system comprising:
>
> a firewall system interposed between a first system and a second system, wherein the

first system comprises:

a user device connected to the gateway via a first network, wherein the user device comprises a client; and

a gateway connected to an insecure side of the firewall via a second network, wherein the gateway comprises an instance of a remote gateway agent,

wherein the second system comprises:

a processing system connected to a secure side of the firewall, wherein the processing system comprises an instance of a remote proxy agent and at least one application,

wherein the remote gateway agent is configured for:

receiving at the remote gateway agent a client registration request from the remote proxy agent, wherein the client registration request creates a client-to-server connection through the firewall between the remote proxy agent and the remote gateway agent;

receiving a request from the user device for a task to be performed by the at least one application residing on the processing system; and

forwarding the task request to the remote proxy agent residing on the processing system via the remote gateway agent to the registered remote proxy agent, and

wherein the remote proxy agent comprises an interface to the at least one application and is configured for:

sending the client registration request to the remote gateway agent;

receiving and analyzing the task request from the remote gateway agent;

selecting and executing the at least one application via the interface to process the request; and

sending a result from the remote proxy agent to the remote gateway agent via the client-to-server connection through the firewall.

Grantges provides a client access to an application via a web page:

Computer system **20** is configured generally to provide access by user **18** of a client computer **22** to one of a plurality of software applications **24**.sub.1, **24**.sub.2, . . . , **24**.sub.3. Such access is over an insecure network **26**, such as the publicly used Internet, to a private, secure network where applications **24**.sub.1, **24**.sub.2, . . . , **24**.sub.3 reside. Each application **24**.sub.1, **24**.sub.2, . . . , **24**.sub.3 includes a respective web server (hereinafter "destination server") **28**.sub.1, **28**.sub.2, . . . , **28**.sub.3, and an application program **30**.sub.1, **30**.sub.2, ..., **30**.sub.3. Computer system **20** includes a firewall system **32**, a proxy server **34** with a plug-in **36**, an application gateway **38** comprising a gateway proxy server **40** with a plug-in **42** and a gateway web server **44**, and an authorization server **46**. Also shown in FIG. 1 is an Information Security block **48**, a certificate authority **50**, a first secure connection **52**, a second secure connection **54**, and a third secure connection **56**. (Grantges, Col. 4, lines 8-22; emphasis added by underlining.)

Grantges describes a one-to-one relationship between a software application, a web server and an application program. Additionally, **FIG. 1** of Grantges illustrates a single proxy server within application gateway **38** to service each software application/webserver/application group.

In contrast to Grantges, new independent claim 103 of the present application recites a processing system comprising applications and a remote proxy agent that interfaces with at least one application.

The relationship between applications, programs and web servers (destination server) is as follows:

> Gateway proxy server **40** further performs well-known mapping functions, and, in accordance with the present invention, efficiently routes messages destined for various applications **24**.sub.1, **24**.sub.2, . . . , **24**.sub.3 to the appropriate one of the destination servers **28**.sub.1, **28**.sub.2, . . . , **28**.sub.3. (Grantges, Col. 7, lines 1-12.)

In Grantges, the content that is served from an application (**24**) is served from a web server (**28**) to a browser (**22**). The gateway proxy server provides a map to the browser of a path to the web server. (See, Grantges, Col. 5, line 65 to Col. 6, line 2.)

The limitations of new independent claim 103 recite a processing system comprising a remote proxy agent and an application. The remote proxy agent communicates with the application via an interface and communicates with the remote gateway agent as a client of the remote proxy agent. This relationship between the remote proxy agent and the remote gateway agent is made clear in claim 103 by the following limitation:

> receiving a client registration request from the remote proxy agent at the remote gateway agent, wherein the client registration request creates a client-to-server connection through the firewall between the remote proxy agent and the remote gateway agent.

The remote gateway also communicates with a user device via a client residing on that device. Thus, the remote gateway agent acts as a server to both the client operating on the user device (located on the insecure side of the firewall) and the remote proxy agent operating on the processing system (located on the secure side of the firewall). Grantges does not teach or reasonably suggest these limitations.

The presence of the remote proxy agent and an application on a processing system and the client-to-server relationship between the remote proxy agent and the remote gateway agent that is established upon registration of the remote proxy agent with the remote gateway agent allows communications to pass through the firewall without the need for a proxy server

(illustrated as a component of application gateway **38** in Fig. 1 of Grantges) as required by Grantges or for other components of application gateway **38**.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that new claim 103 is not anticipated by Grantges. Because new independent claims 114 and 125 recite substantively equivalent limitations, those claims are also not anticipated by Grantges. It follows that the claims that depend directly or indirectly from new independent claims 103, 114 and 125 are not anticipated by Grantges.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 45, 50-52, 56-58, 64, 67-70, 79-80, 88, 91, 93 and 102 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6324648 issued to Grantges in view of U.S. Patent 6,711,611 issued to Hanhan (hereinafter, "Hanhan"). Claims 45, 50-52, 56-58, 64, 67-70, 79-80, 88, 91, 93 and 102 have been canceled.

Claims 46, 48-49, 59, 61-62, 82-84 and 97-99 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grantges in view of Hanhan in further view of U.S. Patent 6,633,905 issued to Anderson et al. (hereinafter, "Anderson") and U.S. Patent Application Publication 20020118671 filed by Staples et al. (hereinafter, "Staples). Claims 46, 48-49, 59, 61-62, 82-84 and 97-99 have been canceled.

Claims 55 and 65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grantges in view Hanhan in further view of U.S. Patent 6,970,035 issued to Maes (hereinafter, "Maes"). Claims 55 and 65 have been canceled.

Hanhan, Anderson, Staples and Maes have been cited as teaching elements of claims that have been canceled. However, none of these references teach or reasonably suggest the deficiencies of Grantges previously described. In particular, none of these references teach a processing system comprising both a remote proxy agent and an application that is accessible to the remote proxy agent as recited in new independent claims 103, 114 and 125 of the present application. In addition, the references do not teach or reasonably suggest "receiving at the remote gateway agent a client registration request from a remote proxy agent, wherein the client registration request creates a client-to-server connection through the firewall" as recited in independent claims 103 and 114 and recited in substantively equivalent form in new independent claim 125.

Because independent claims 103, 114, and 125 recite limitations not taught by Grantges,

by Grantges in combination with Hanhan, by Grantges in combination with Hanhan, Anderson and Staples, and by Grantges in combination with Hanhan and Maes, the claims that depend from new independent claims 103, 114 and 125 are patentable over the cited prior art.

C. CONCLUSION

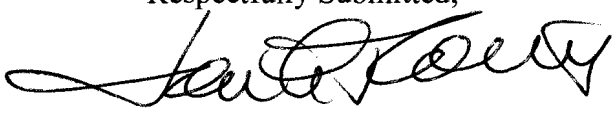
In view of the above information and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the current rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance with claims 103-135.

The Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees, and conversely, deposit any credit balance, to Deposit Account No. 18-1579.

D. REQUEST FOR IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

In view of the number of office actions in this case, Applicant respectfully requests an in-person interview with the examiner and his supervisor before the next office action on the merits to discuss the response and the references.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon L. Roberts, Ph.D., J.D
Registration No. 31,293
Elliott D. Light, Esq.
Registration No. 51,948
ROBERTS MARDULA & WERTHEIM, LLC
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 1000
Reston, VA 20191
703-391-2900